

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

- Please amend pending claims 1 and 6 as indicated below. A complete listing of all claims and their status in the application are as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of testing an integrated circuit comprising:  
providing a semiconductor substrate having a semiconductor device provided thereon;  
forming a first dielectric layer over the semiconductor substrate;  
forming a first channel in the first dielectric layer in contact with the semiconductor device;  
forming a first contact pad mask layer;  
forming a first contact pad in the first contact pad mask layer in contact with the first channel;  
using the first contact pad to test the first channel and the semiconductor device; and  
removing the first contact pad mask layer and the first contact pad;  
forming a second dielectric layer over the semiconductor substrate;  
forming a second channel in the second dielectric layer in contact with the semiconductor device;  
forming a second contact pad mask layer; and  
forming a second contact pad in the second contact pad mask layer in contact with the channel.
2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:  
using a tester having a microprobe; and  
wherein:  
using the first contact pad includes forming the first contact pad for contact by the microprobe.
3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:  
forming the first contact pad mask layer uses a photoresist.
4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:  
forming the first contact pad forms a material selected from a group consisting of copper, aluminum, gold, silver, a compound thereof, and a combination thereof.
5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein:  
removing the first contact pad mask layer and the first contact pad uses polishing.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:  
~~forming a second dielectric layer over the semiconductor substrate;~~  
~~forming a second channel in the second dielectric layer in contact with the semiconductor device;~~  
~~forming a second contact pad mask layer;~~  
~~forming a second contact pad in the second contact pad mask layer in contact with the channel;~~  
using the second contact pad to test the second channel; and  
removing the second contact pad mask layer and the second contact pad.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 additionally comprising:  
using a tester having a microprobe; and  
wherein:  
using the second contact pad includes forming the second contact pad for contact by the microprobe.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 additionally comprising:  
forming the second contact pad mask layer uses a photoresist.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 additionally comprising:  
forming the second contact pad uses a material selected from a group consisting of copper, aluminum, gold, silver, a compound thereof, and a combination thereof.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 6 wherein:  
removing the second contact pad mask layer and the second contact pad uses polishing.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising:  
forming a via dielectric layer over the semiconductor substrate;  
forming a via in the via dielectric layer in contact with the semiconductor device;  
forming a second dielectric layer over the via dielectric layer;  
forming a second channel in the second dielectric layer contiguous with the via;  
forming a second contact pad mask layer;  
forming a second contact pad in the second contact pad mask layer in contact with the second channel;  
using the second contact pad to test the via and second channel; and  
removing the second contact pad mask layer and the second contact pad.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 11 additionally comprising:  
using a tester having a microprobe; and  
wherein:  
using the second contact pad includes forming the second contact pad for contact by the microprobe.
13. (original) The method as claimed in claim 11 additionally comprising:  
forming the second contact pad mask layer uses a photoresist.
14. (original) The method as claimed in claim 11 additionally comprising:  
forming the second contact pad forms a material selected from a group consisting of copper, aluminum, gold, silver, a compound thereof, and a combination thereof.
15. (original) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein:  
removing the second contact pad mask layer and the second contact pad uses polishing.
16. (original) A method of testing an integrated circuit comprising:  
providing a semiconductor substrate having a semiconductor device provided thereon;  
forming a device dielectric layer over the semiconductor substrate by deposition;  
forming a first dielectric layer over the device dielectric layer by deposition;  
forming a contact to the semiconductor device in the device dielectric layer;  
forming a first channel in the first dielectric layer in contact with the contact;  
forming a via dielectric layer over the first dielectric layer;  
forming a via in the via dielectric layer in contact with the first channel;  
forming a second dielectric layer over the via dielectric layer;  
forming a second channel in the second dielectric layer contiguous with the via;  
forming a contact pad mask layer over a layer selected from the group consisting of the first dielectric layer, the via layer, the second dielectric layer, and a combination thereof;  
forming a contact pad in the contact pad mask layer in contact with an element selected from a group consisting of the first channel, the via, the second channel, and a combination thereof;  
using the contact pad to test an element from a group consisting of the semiconductor device, the contact, the first channel, the via, the second channel, and a combination thereof;  
and  
removing the contact pad mask layer and the contact pad; and  
completing the integrated circuit.

17. (original) The method as claimed in claim 16 additionally comprising:  
using a tester having a microprobe; and  
wherein:  
forming the contact pad includes forming the contact pad for contact by the microprobe.
18. (original) The method as claimed in claim 16 additionally comprising:  
forming the contact pad mask layer uses a photoresist.
19. (original) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein:  
forming the contact pad forms a material selected from a group consisting of copper,  
aluminum, gold, silver, a compound thereof, and a combination thereof.
20. (original) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein:  
removing the contact pad mask layer and the contact pad uses chemical mechanical polishing.